



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 6 July 2022

Update version, previously published on : 1 June 1987

Ireland

Knockmoyle/Sheskin



Designation date	1 June 1987
Site number	372
Coordinates	54°10'46"N 09°33'11"W
Area	1 198,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The Knockmoyle/ Sheskin Ramsar Site is situated north of Bellacorrick in North County Mayo. The site is dominated by blanket bog habitat. Along its eastern boundary lies the Oweninny River and to the west lies a large area of conifer plantation. Extensive conifer plantation also lies north of the site, with extensive cutover bog and the Oweninny Wind Farm to the south. There are few settlements in the area with the nearest being Bangor Erris to the west and Crossmolina to the east. Despite the large scale land use pressures of afforestation and industrial peat extraction adjacent to the Ramsar site, it remains an extensive area of lowland blanket bog with a remarkably dense network of pools and small acidic lakes. The valleys and flushes are floristically rich owing to an absence of burning and grazing. The flushes are also notable for the presence of boreal relict mosses and liverworts. The rare vascular plant, Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), occurs at the site; one of only very few known locations in Ireland. The Marsh Saxifrage is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, and is on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015. The site is known to support Red Grouse and the habitat is suitable for breeding Golden Plover, both are Red Listed as breeding birds in Ireland. It is also known to be used by foraging Hen Harrier in the winter months and there is a winter roost site nearby. This Ramsar site is part of the larger Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC which has been selected for the following Annex I habitats: blanket bog, dystrophic lakes, Rhynchosporion vegetation, wet heath and alkaline fen. It is has also been selected for Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri*) and Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*).

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	National Parks and Wildlife Service Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Postal address	National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin, Ireland D07 N7CV

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	National Parks and Wildlife Service Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Postal address	National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin, Ireland D07 N7CV

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year

To year

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

The Ramsar Sites are presented on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland Discovery series maps. The legend for these maps can be found at Ordnance Survey Ireland; <https://osi.ie>

The boundaries for this site were defined using the boundaries of the Knockmoyle/ Sheskin Nature Reserve which was designated in 1986 and enlarged in 1990. Knockmoyle/Sheskin Ramsar site lies within the much more extensive Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC (001922) and is an integral part of the SAC. Details of the SAC can be found on the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>.

Within this area a number of GIS data layers were used to define the Ramsar habitats within the site. These included:

- NPWS data (Site-Specific Conservation Objectives)
- CORINE (Co-Ordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data sets (2012).
- Bing Maps Aerial - © Harris Corp, Earthstar Geographics LLC © 2017 Intermap Earthstar Geographics SIO © 2017 Microsoft Corporation.
- Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland Rivers and Lakes layers data layers.

Habitat areas were subsequently estimated by reference to the available imagery and layers and should be considered representative but approximate. Discrepancies between the original boundary for the Ramsar site and the current boundary are likely as a result of mapping projection anomalies.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Atlantic
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

Blanket bogs cover approximately 13% of Ireland. They contain in excess of 90% water and act as vast water reservoirs. Blanket bog habitat with associated pool systems and connected lake and river habitats as present at this Ramsar site (and in the wider SAC) provide a number of key ecosystem and hydrological services. In terms of hydrological services blanket bogs host high status water bodies, regulate stream flow and act as source areas for high quality drinking water. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded study “Quantification of blanket bog ecosystem services to water”, was carried out jointly by researchers from Queen’s University Belfast and University College Dublin, and sought to raise awareness of the wider contributions provided by healthy blanket bog ecosystems to society and the environment, while also examining the wider cost of their degradation. The study found that habitat condition influences stream flow and water quality, with more intact areas of blanket bog having more stable flow and water quality regimes, and with more stable hydrogeological regimes in peat ensuring more consistent contributions of bog water to stream flow, while maintaining terrestrial biodiversity (EPA, 2021).
See also <https://www.catchments.ie/blanket-bogs-hydrology-ecosystem-services-water/>

Other ecosystem services provided

Blanket bogs provide a range of ecosystem services (in addition to hydrological).

- they provide a refuge for a rich biodiversity of species including several rare plants, birds and invertebrate species.
- are commonly used as rough grazing land for sheep and cattle, grouse shooting, deer stalking and fishing.
- they preserve prehistoric farming landscapes beneath the peat as well as a diverse range of artefacts within the peat mass.
- the patterns of pools on the flatter areas of blanket bog is of particular conservation significance. The pools support a specialised range of mosses (especially species of Sphagnum) and plants and they provide essential feeding habitats for wetland birds.
- within their peat layers, blanket bogs preserve a record of their own growth and development and on a larger scale, they provide insights into regional vegetation change, climate change, atmospheric pollution and act as chronometers for other events such as volcanic eruptions.
- they accumulate and store millions of tonnes of carbon and have a vital function in controlling the green house gases that cause climate change.
- their utilisation for recreation can have positive benefits on the health of people.

See <http://www.ipcc.ie/a-to-z-peatlands/blanket-bogs/>
<https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>

Other reasons

This Ramsar Site supports several Annex I habitats (Blanket bog, Rhynchosporion Vegetation, Dystrophic Lakes) which are representative of the biogeographical area and which contribute to regional and national biodiversity. The extensive open habitats of blanket bog and pool system are important for invertebrates, breeding birds, summer and winter foraging birds and for their flora. Mammals such as Hare and Otter are also known from the site. Bats may forage along watercourses.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Listed Vascular plant in Ireland (Near Threatened), FPO species, Annex II (Habitats Directive)	One of only a limited number of localities in Ireland where this plant is still found.

The rare Marsh Saxifrage is found within the Ramsar site (Muldoon et al, 2015) where it is restricted to mineral flushes within blanket bog. Irish plants are referable to subsp. *hirculus* (Sell & Murrell 2014). Lockhart (1989) describes the discovery, ecology and abundance of the species at three localities in Co. Mayo. The Marsh Saxifrage is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, is a Red Listed Vascular plant in Ireland and assessed as Near Threatened (Wyse-Jackson et al, 2016) and is listed on the Flora Protection Order (2015).

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence ¹⁾	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species (Habitats Directive)	Red Listed in Europe.
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Listed (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland)	Red Listed species in Ireland. Red Grouse are known to breed in this area.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Birds Directive), Red Listed (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland)	Red Listed species in Ireland. Suitable habitat present within this site for breeding Golden Plover.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Otter is known to use the site for foraging. They are likely to forage along rivers, streams and within the pools of the blanket bog.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lowland blanket bog	Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lakes and pool system within blanket bog habitat	Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peatland community within blanket bog mosaic, with abundant White-beaked sedge.	Annex I (Habitats Directive)

Optional text box to provide further information

The site is part of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC which is larger than the Ramsar site. The following additional habitats and species are present within the wider SAC: Wet Heath, Alkaline Fens, Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri*) but are not known from the Ramsar site.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The Knockmoyle/ Sheekin Ramsars Site is an extensive area of lowland blanket bog which is densely pool-studded and contains interesting flushes. The site slopes gently from a high point of 150m down to 80m where there is an extensive plateau with pool systems. Plateau areas and smaller pool systems are also present at higher levels where the gradient is largely gentle. The Ramsar site is part of a large EU Natura 2000 site designated Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC (001922) owing to the presence of active blanket bog (a priority habitat as listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive), its associated plant communities and the presence of rare plant and animal species. The SAC is split into two extensive areas of blanket bog separated by cutover bog and afforestation. The Knockmoyle/Sheekin Ramsar site lies within the western part of the SAC. Blanket bog forms where there is a climate of high rainfall and a low level of evapotranspiration, allowing peat to develop in wet hollows and over large expanses of undulating ground as occurs within this Ramsar site. The condition of the bog is dependent on both high rainfall levels and on the ability of the bog to retain water. Habitat loss, drainage and the hydrological changes associated with activities such as afforestation and peat extraction affect the condition of blanket bog and its ability to retain water. The Knockmoyle/Sheekin Ramsar site is flanked by conifer plantation to the west and the Owenwee River lies along its eastern boundary. Across the Owenwee River a large expanse of blanket bog was once present and would have surrounded the Knockmoyle/Sheekin Ramsar site to its south. This vast area of blanket bog was harvested to fuel the Bellacorrick power station. The extensive cutover bog which remains today is now the site of a large wind farm: the Oweninny Wind Farm. To the immediate north blanket bog habitat lies adjacent to the Ramsar site and is part of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. Beyond this lies a patchwork of upland and lowland blanket bog and conifer plantation interlaced with a network of river, streams, and small lakes.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		3	5	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		2	10	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		1	1180	Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Potential	increase

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				

Optional text box to provide further information

Hen Harrier are known to forage over the open peatland habitats in this area. There is a winter roost site outside of, but nearby the site. Hen Harrier are not known to breed in this area, but are active during the winter months when they extend beyond their breeding territories to forage.

Small numbers of Whooper Swan are known to visit the area within which the Ramsar site lies. They are known to use some of the small water bodies on cutover bog which was previously harvested for peat on an industrial scale.

Hare and fox are known to use the peatland habitats this site. Fox are likely to use the adjacent conifer plantations for cover.

Red Deer are present in the area and use the site to commute and forage. The Red Deer once roamed freely in the Nephin Mountains of North Mayo but were hunted to extinction in the 19th Century. Red Deer of farmed origin have since been introduced into the north Mayo area (See also <https://www.wildnephinnationalpark.ie/explore/wildlife/noteworthy-species/>). Red Deer are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976; Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 (Marnell et al, 2019).

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Entire river basin

Upper part of river basin

Middle part of river basin

Lower part of river basin

More than one river basin

Not in river basin

Coastal

4.4.3 - Soil

Organic

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Change unknown.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	unknown

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from precipitation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown
Water inputs from groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	unknown
To downstream catchment	unknown

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	unknown

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mesotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Dystrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

While there is extensive blanket bog in the surrounding area there is also large areas of blanket bog which have been industrially harvested over a number of years and the peatland resource has become exhausted. There are large tracts of conifer plantation on blanket bog. Cutover bog has been developed for wind farms. Some bog has been converted to grassland through drainage and fertilisation for farming.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High
Pollination	Support for pollinators	Medium

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

- i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland
- ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland
- iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples
- iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

The site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and is state owned.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS)
 Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
 Mayo County Council - Planning authority for the site
 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - water quality monitoring
 Inland Fisheries Ireland
 North Western Regional Fisheries Board
 Coillte Teoranta

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Maurice Eakin

Postal address:

National Parks and Wildlife Service,
 90 North King Street,
 Smithfield, Dublin,
 Ireland
 D07 N7CV

E-mail address:

maurice.eakin@housing.gov.ie

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage	Low impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Renewable energy	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	Low impact	Low impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Utility and service lines (e.g., pipelines)	Low impact	Low impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Vegetation clearance/land conversion	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/alien species	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water		Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents		Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/001922	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Nature Reserve	Knockmoyle Sheskin Nature Reserve	https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves/mayo/knockmoyle-sheskin-nature-reserve	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Land conversion controls	Implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Proposed

Other:

The Knockmoyle/Sheskin Ramsar site lies within the wider Bellacorick Bog SAC. Under European and national legislation Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. Conservation objectives have been set for the Bellacorick Bog SAC and can be accessed on NPWS.ie (specifically at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/001922>).

It is Departmental policy that no hunting occurs on State-owned lands, such as Knockmoyle/Sheskin Nature Reserve.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

There is no visitor centre associated directly with the Ramsar site. However it lies directly adjacent to the Oweninny Wind Farm which has been built on an area of cutover blanket bog. There is a visitor centre at the wind farm and much of the material be relevant to blanket bog conservation and management. It is expected that the visitor centre, which will be referred to as the Renewable Energy Advocacy Hub, will provide an insight into the production of wind energy, the local peatlands eco-system and the history of power generation in the area.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): <https://www.oweninnywindfarm.ie/>

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water quality	Implemented
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented

As a EU Natura 2000 site, it is required under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive, that the status and trends of the conservation objectives within the site are monitored and reported on every 6 years.
The site is regularly inspected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Rangers

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Colhoun, K. and Cummins, S. 2013. Birds of conservation concern in Ireland 2014-2019. Irish Birds 9: 523-544

Lockhart, N.D. (1989) Three new localities for *Saxifraga hirculus* L. in Ireland. Irish Naturalists' Journal 23 (2): 65–69.

Marnell, F., Looney, D. & Lawton, C. (2019) Ireland Red List No. 12: Terrestrial Mammals. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland

Muldoon, C.S., Waldren, S. & Lynn, D. (2015) Monitoring recommendations for Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus* L.) in the Republic of Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 88. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC 001922. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS 2013. Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC. Site Code: 001922. Version date: 14.11.2013.

Sell, P. & Murrell, G. (2014) Flora of Great Britain and Ireland. Volume 2. Capparaceae – Rosaceae. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Wyse Jackson, M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Cole, E., Jebb, M., McFerran, D., Sheehy Skeffington, M. & Wright, M. (2016) Ireland Red List No. 10: Vascular Plants. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dublin, Ireland.

Marnell, F., Looney, D. & Lawton, C. (2019) Ireland Red List No. 12: Terrestrial Mammals. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.wetlandsurveysireland.com/wetlands/map-of-irish-wetlands--/map-of-irish-wetlands---map/>

<http://www.ramsar.org>

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu>

The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (IWeBS).

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Blanket bog at dusk (Jackie Hunt, 01-01-2017)



Blanket bog at Sheskin (Jackie Hunt, 01-01-2017)



Blanket bog and Red Deer (Jackie Hunt, 01-01-2017)



Blanket bog with forestry in the background (Jackie Hunt, 01-01-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation